

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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S E C R E T LONDON 00670

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, US, UK

SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN ON COMMUNISM IN WESTERN EUROPE

REF: STATE 8875

1. AMBASSADOP UTILIZED OCCASION OF FAREWELL CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN YESTERDAY (JANUARY 14) TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. CALLAGHAN READ WITH INTEREST SECRETARY'S LETTER TO BRANDT AND OBSERVED THAT NO ONE HAD YET ANSWERED THE QUESTION OF HOW ONE DEALS WITH A COMMUNIST PARTY THAT REACHES POWER DEMOCRATICALLY.
2. AMBASSADOP THEN MADE POINTS CONTAINED PARAGRAPH 2 REFTEL AND LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE WITH CALLAGHAN. IN RESPONSE TO PRESENTATION ON ITALY, CALLAGHAN SAID THAT HE WOULD ENCOURAGE DE MARTINO NOT TO CREATE A PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION THAT WOULD ENSURE COMMUNIST ACCESSION TO POWER. HE WOULD BE RELUCTANT, HOWEVER, TO ENCOURAGE DE MARTINO TO COOPERATE WITH THE "MUD-SPOILED" CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SINCE THAT WOULD KILL THE PSI. "NEGATIVE COOPERATION," HE SAID, IS THE BEST WE CAN EXPECT OF THE PSI. HE ADDED THAT RON HAYWARD, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE LABOR PARTY, HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE A TRIP TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH DE MARTINO. MEANWHILE, CALLAGHAN INTENDED TO PRESS DE MARTINO TO ATTEND MEETING AT HELSINGOR.

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3. WITH RESPECT TO SPAIN, CALLAGHAN SAID THAT HE PRE-

REFERRED TO WITHHOLD COMMENT UNTIL AFTER HELSINGOR, WHERE HE WOULD HEAR VIEWS OF PSOE AND OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS.

AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT APPRAISAL OF SITUATION IN SPAIN WAS GIVEN PURSUANT TO SECRETARY'S PROMISE IN BRUSSELS, AND CALLAGHAN NODDED HIS UNDERSTANDING.

4. CALLAGHAN THOUGHT US ASSESSMENT OF PORTUGUESE SITUATION WAS RIGHT. SOARES, HE SAID, EXPECTS PS TO "WIN" NEXT ELECTION, WITH PARTY TO HIS RIGHT (PRESUMABLY PPD) IMPROVING ITS POSITION AS STRONG SECOND. ON BILATERAL AID, CALLAGHAN SAID THAT HE HAD PUT HIS FOOT DOWN WITH MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT AND INSISTED ON FIVE TO TEN MILLION POUNDS.

5. IN CONCLUSION, CALLAGHAN EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE SOME TIME TO CONSIDER THE POINTS RAISED BY THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO BRANDT, AND WOULD GIVE A MORE CONSIDERED RESPONSE AFTER HELSINGOR.

6. SINCE AMBASSADOR AND PRIME MINISTER HAVE NO MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME TO MEET BEFORE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE FROM POST, MINISTER SPIERS CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL WITH WILSON'S PRIVATE SECRETARY (PATRICK WRIGHT).

RICHARDSON

SECRET

NNN

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